



# PRESS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### 2005 COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

**WEST VIRGINIA -- Red meat production** in commercial plants totaled 6.2 million pounds during 2005. This was 11 percent below the 2004 production of 7.0 million. The number of Federally and Non Federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 29 on January 1, 2006, down 2 plants from January 1, 2005.

West Virginia with 2004 Comparisons:

- **Beef production** – 8.86 million pounds, down 3 percent.
- **Cattle slaughtered** - 9,200 head, down 4 percent.
- **Pork production** – 1.95 million pounds, down 8 percent.
- **Hogs slaughtered** – 7,700 head, down 7 percent.

Average live weight of cattle slaughtered in 2005 was 966 pounds, up 13 pounds. The average live weight for hogs was 254 pounds, down 2 pounds.

Sheep and Lambs and Calves information was not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

**UNITED STATES -- Red meat production** for the United States totaled 45.8 billion pounds in 2005, slightly higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 45.7 billion pounds. On farm production totaled 135 million pounds.

**Beef production**, totaled 24.8 billion pounds, slightly higher than the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 165 million pounds, down 6 percent from last year, setting a new record low. **Pork production**, at 20.7 billion pounds, was slightly higher than the previous year, setting a new record high. **Lamb and mutton production** set a new record low, totaling 191 million pounds, 4 percent below the previous record low set a year ago.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** during 2005 totaled 32.4 million head, down 1 percent from 2004, with federal inspection comprising 98.3 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,256 pounds, up 16 pounds from a year ago. **Steers** comprised 52.8 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, **heifers** 30.7 percent, **dairy cows** 7.1 percent, **other cows** 7.9 percent, and **bulls** 1.6 percent.

**Commercial calf slaughter** totaled 734,400 head, down 13 percent from a year ago with 97.7 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 353 pounds, up 23 pounds from a year earlier.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 103.6 million head, slightly higher than 2004 with 99.0 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from last year, at 269 pounds. **Barrows and gilts** comprised 96.7 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter**, at 2.70 million head, was down 5 percent from 2004 with 94.7 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from 2004 to 138 pounds.

There were 807 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2006 compared with 827 last year. Of these, 658 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2005 with the 13 largest plants slaughtering almost 54 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 631 plants, with the 13 largest plants accounting for slightly over 58 percent of the total. Likewise, 11 of the 227 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for nearly 79 percent of the total and 4 of the 497 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2005 comprised about 67 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for almost 53 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2005, similar to 2004.

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